

Serial No. 09/757,454

Attny Ref: 2000-0163

AMENDMENT

The following listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. *(Previously Amended)* A voice-operated arrangement for interacting with a dual-tone multifrequency (DTMF)-controlled system, the arrangement comprising:
a speech recognition unit responsive to voice commands from a user and generating a digital signal representative of a particular received voice command;
a speech-to-DTMF tones application, responsive to the digital signal outputs from the speech recognition unit for accessing a proper user record from a plurality of user records, retrieving dial-out information for a DTMF-controlled system associated with the user and completing a communication path between the user and said associated DTMF-controlled system, wherein said voice-operated arrangement monitors the communication path and retrieves predetermined voice commands uttered by the user and translates said predetermined voice prompts into DTMF tones which are thereafter transmitted to said associated DTMF-controlled system.

4. *(Previously Amended)* The arrangement as defined in claim 1 wherein a plurality of different DTMF-controlled systems are associated with a user and the user record comprises a plurality of different fields for each DTMF-controlled system of said plurality of DTMF-controlled systems.

5. *(Previously Amended)* The arrangement as defined in claim 4 wherein the plurality of different fields for each DTMF-controlled system of the plurality of DTMF-controlled systems in a user record comprises a dial-out access number for each DTMF-controlled system and a mapping of a plurality of voice commands to an associated plurality of DTMF tone sequences.

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6. *(Previously Amended)* The arrangement as defined in claim 5 wherein the plurality of different fields comprises a series of DTMF tones for accessing the proper DTMF-controlled system within the plurality of DTMF-controlled systems.

7. *(Original)* The arrangement as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one DTMF-controlled system is a voice messaging system.

8. *(Original)* A method for interacting with at least one DTMF-controlled telecommunications system, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) accessing, by a user, a speech-to-DTMF tone application;
- b) retrieving a proper user record for the user identified in step a);
- c) dialing out, by the application, to a DTMF-controlled system included in the user record retrieved in step b);
- d) bridging together the call between the user and the application and the call between the application and the DTMF-controlled system;
- e) in response to predefined voice commands uttered by the user and received by the speech-to-DTMF tone application, translating said voice commands into one or more DTMF tones accepted as commands by the DTMF-controlled system; and
- f) transmitting said translated DTMF tone commands from the speech-to-DTMF tone application to the DTMF-controlled system.

9. *(Original)* The method as defined in claim 8 wherein in performing step a), the method comprises the additional step of authorizing a user by requesting and validating a spoken user password.

10. *(Original)* The method as defined in claim 8 wherein the method is used for retrieving messages from a plurality of different messaging systems associated with a single user, the method comprising the further steps of

- g) querying the user record for additional DTMF-controlled system fields; and
- h) repeating steps c) – f) for each additional DTMF-controlled system.

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11. (New) A method for enabling a user to interact with a DTMF-controlled system via voice commands, the method comprising:

- a) receiving user access to a speech-to-DTMF tone application;
- b) establishing a communication link between the speech-to-DTMF tone application and a DTMF-controlled system;
- c) bridging, via the speech-to-DTMF tone application, communication between the user and the DTMF-controlled system; and
- d) translating a received voice command from the user into a DTMF tone for use by the DTMF-controlled system.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein prior to establishing a communication link between the speech-to-DTMF tone application and the DTMF-controlled system, the method comprises retrieving a user record that references the DTMF-controlled system associated with the user.

13. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising transmitting the translated voice command from the speech-to-DTMF tone application to the DTMF-controlled system.

14. (New) The method as defined in claim 11 further comprising validating user access via requesting a spoken user password.

15. (New) The method as defined in claim 12 wherein the method is used for retrieving messages from a plurality of different messaging systems associated with a single user, the method further comprising:

- querying the user record for additional DTMF-controlled system fields; and
- repeating steps b) – d) for each additional DTMF-controlled system.

16. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the voice commands translated into a DTMF tone for use by the DTMF-controlled system enable the user to navigate through a menu of the DTMF-controlled system.